



Beths Grammar School

an 11 – 18 selective school with academy status

Headteacher: Mr R J Blyghton

23rd October 2023

Dear Parents and Carers of Students in Year 11,

Thank you for all your support during what has been a very busy first half-term of the school year. On Wednesday 18th October, we held a one-year anniversary service in memory of Osaivbie Obasohan. This was a very moving and emotional event as we put aside the hustle and bustle of school life to come together as one year group to celebrate his life one year on after his sudden and unexpected passing. The level of respect shown by the students was exceptional and I know this was deeply appreciated by his family who were also in attendance. The

choir sang beautifully, and the speeches were heartfelt and delivered with deep emotion and reverence. The memorial basketball match on Thursday night was a great success (with Beths boys winning against Dartford Sharks basketball team). The scoreboard donated in his memory was used for the first time and the plaque was unveiled. His memory will forever live on at Beths. Thank you to all parents and carers who sent very kind and thoughtful messages of support to the school and for keeping us in your prayers this week. They were greatly appreciated.

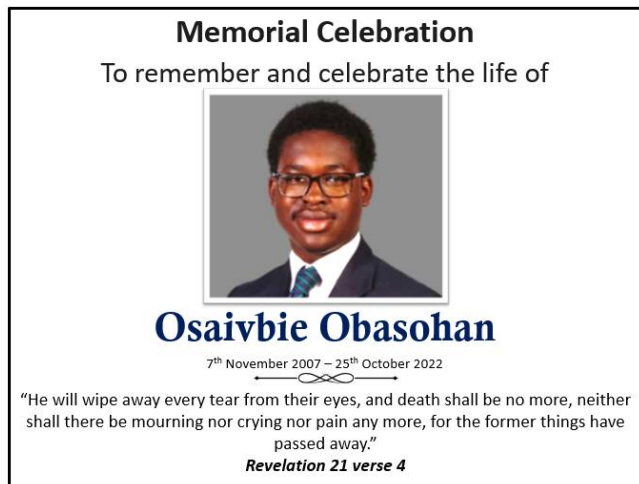
As we have reached the end of this half-term, I would like to remind you of some of the important milestones which await us in the next term for all Year 11 students.

Trial Examinations

The first set of trial exams will start on **Monday 4th December** and operate over a two-week window. A copy of the timetable will be sent to you and the students on our return after the half-term break. Please can I ask that you avoid making any medical appointments for your child during this timeframe. This is very disruptive to the exam process.

It is the expectation that students use time over the half-term break for study and revision. Revision for trial exams should be well underway. I ask for your support in ensuring that your child does use this opportunity wisely. We would suggest that they replicate the working school day from Monday to Friday and take the weekends off.

We expect all students to take these exams seriously and use this as an opportunity to continue to develop and fine-tune their exam technique in each subject area. Every subject is important and every grade matters. Please also be aware that these trial exams will influence the next set of predictions.



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Formal offers to join the Sixth Form here at Beths (and other schools) will be made following the outcomes of these exams. If the predicted grade is not the same as the entry requirement for the chosen A-Level, unfortunately your child will not be able to select this subject.

To access the Year 11 study guide giving you advice on each subject as well as advice on how to support your child, please click [here](#).

To access a recording of the Year 11 information evening, please click [here](#).

To help you support your son with revision for his exams, I would encourage him to spend time over the next few weeks and the half-term break completing the following *proactive* revision and study tasks for each of his subjects.

- Reading through class notes (these need to be from the start of the GCSE course).
- Creating mind maps and extra revision notes on each chapter of the specification (all exam specifications can be accessed online)
- Self-assessing confidence against the specification
- Highlighting notes
- Writing exam answers under timed conditions
- Reading model answers
- Rewriting model answers or rewriting marked work to make improvements.
- Using past paper questions and planning answers
- Marking your own work to a mark scheme
- Studying mark schemes or examiners reports (these can be accessed by the exam board website)
- Comparing model answers against your own work

Sixth Form Information Evening

We will be holding a Sixth Form Information Evening and subject fair for all our internal Year 11 students on **Thursday 16th November starting at 4.30pm**. You and your son will have the opportunity to tour the school and speak with subject teachers to gain more information about A-Level study in each subject area. We will send the options booklet to you a week in advance of the event. Gates will open to parents at 4.30pm and there will be a formal presentation in the main hall at 6.15pm where we will speak to you about the Sixth Form offer and the application process. Parking will be available on-site for that evening. All students must be accompanied by a parent.

Work experience, careers, and Post-16 study advice

A massive thank you to you as parents for your support with Work Experience. The students have had a fantastic experience and they have come back with many positive stories and successes. I am still making my way through the large number of emails that have been sent to me regarding how excellent the students were. They are very encouraging!

I would ask that over the half-term break that students complete their reflection on Unifrog. We also ask that they make sure to send their employer an email thanking them for the opportunity.

I include a link below for the latest (free) virtual Work Experience opportunities should your son wish to engage in a virtual placement during the holiday time on a chosen career area.

[Virtual work experience \(springpod.com\)](https://springpod.com)

Whilst I am aware that most of our students will transfer into the Sixth Form here at Beths, I am also aware that for a number of students they simply do not know what they want to do. This is not uncommon of students this age. We do have the services of an Independent Careers Adviser who comes into school to speak with students who need guidance on what the next step in education and training could be for them. If your child does wish to seek this advice, then please email me to make an appointment. I want to make sure that by the end of Year 11, every student in the year group is confident that they are making the best decision for the next exciting stage in their education.

Students are able to research their options for Post-16 education and training by accessing the Decisions Post-16 Directory 2023/24 online link at [Decisions Post-16 | London Borough of Bexley](#) for details of Bexley provision.

General standards

I have spoken to all the students at length about the importance of this next term. I encourage them to keep focused, work hard and set the bar high in terms of performance. The main job of every Year 11 student is simply to revise and engage in detailed and purposeful study for the next few months in addition to 100% focus in lessons. They will reap the rewards of their hard work.

Whilst I understand the main focus is getting the students through their GCSEs, I would ask for your support in the remaining terms with regards to uniform standards. Black trainers, hooded tops and students not wearing a blazer seem to be the main issues. Jewellery of any sort is not permitted. It is important that to ensure consistency in standards and to promote fairness to students in the lower years that Year 11 continue to comply with the school uniform policy.

Thank you, as always, for your valuable support during this time. It is greatly appreciated. In everything we do at Beths we have the students' best interests at heart. We are proud of their achievements and admire the resilience and determination they show every day. We welcome all students back to school for an **8.45am start on Monday 6th November**.

If you have any questions or queries, then please feel free to contact me directly.

I wish you all a great half-term break (and a productive one for the students!)

Yours sincerely,



Mr R McBeth
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